SSPB 800 Syllabus and Course Policy (CRN 13046), Fall 2015

Location: Thesis advisor's lab

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Silberg (joff@rice.edu; Keck 209)

Office Hours: Dr. Silberg's office hours are by appointment.

Course objectives and expected learning outcomes:

- To conduct mentored research in systems, synthetic and/or physical biology
- To synthesize novel findings in a comprehensive research-based dissertation by the end of the fifth year in the graduate program
- To gain scientific communication experience through reporting novel findings in peer-reviewed publications

Course structure: Graduate research is conducted full-time in the laboratory after joining a research group in the SSPB graduate program. Students should acquire advisor approval to attend classes or conferences and to arrange vacation time. Students are expected to spend at least 40 hours per week performing research or attending research-related meetings, classes, conferences, and other events.

Scientific writing: In addition to annual progress review documents, students prepare drafts of manuscripts of their research results for publication and may opportunities to provide critical comments on drafts of other lab members' documents.

Readings: Readings are from the primary literature in areas related to the research field or the experimental design employed by the student. Reading should be self-driven; students should be generally knowledgeable about current findings in their area of specialization and are expected to regularly search for new articles and new findings without specific direction from the advisor.

Attendance and participation: Attendance and active participation are required.

Exams: No exams.

Grading: Grading is Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory based on research effort, research progress, and communication with the advisor. Students should consult with their advisor regarding grading. Course can be repeated for credit.

Rice Honor Code: In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. Students are required to use proper citations and follow other practices outlined in the Rice Honor Code information on Academic Fraud and Acknowledgement of Sources (*see* http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/). This handbook also outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the instructor during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities also should contact Disability Support Services in Allen Center (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / x5841).

Syllabus change policy: This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.